

West Washington Hotel  
1238 Wisconsin Ave., NW  
Washington (Georgetown)  
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-103

HABS  
DC  
GEO  
63-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
National Park Service  
1730 North Lynn Street  
Arlington, Virginia

## WEST WASHINGTON HOTEL

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Location: 1238 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.  
(Note: Prior to 1881, Wisconsin Avenue was called High Street and had different address numbers. From 1881 to 1906, Wisconsin Avenue was known as 32nd Street and had present address numbers.)

Present Owner: Roman Catholic Church of Christ the King;  
2301 Colston Drive, Silver Spring, Maryland

Present Occupant: Billy Martin's Carriage House Restaurant

Present Use: Restaurant and apartments

Statement of Significance: This building was well known to Washingtonians as the West Washington Hotel for many years and was a favorite meeting place for Congressmen.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: The following information is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure was built. The site is in Square 1218, Lot 847, old Lot 89.

1805 John Dunlop died intestate (Administration Case 1-180). He had emigrated from Ireland and died leaving Mary Dunlop, his mother; Frances Backlie, his sister and Alexander Dunlop, his brother as heirs-at-law.

References are to the Recorder of Deeds, District of Columbia. The chain follows:

1818 Deed July 4, 1818 recorded October 21, 1818 in  
Liber AT folio 114

Alexander Dunlop

To

Washington Bowie

John Kurtz

"...and benefit of the North wall of brick house aforesaid (to the south of the property) when they wish to build adjoining same using same as a partition wall and also the privilege of laying foundations and extending the North wall of their house"

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- 1820 Deed June 12, 1820 recorded June 14, 1820 in  
Liber AY folio 296  
Washington Bowie et ux Margaret C.  
To  
John Kurtz
- 1841 Deed December 18, 1840 recorded February 29, 1841 in  
Liber WB 83 folio 505  
John Kurtz  
To  
James Hicks
- 1842 Deed May 14, 1842 recorded June 25, 1842 in  
Liber WB 94 folio 440  
James Hicks et ux Margaret Helen  
To  
Benjamin F. Miller
- 1842 Deed June 22, 1842 recorded August 19, 1842 in  
Liber WB 96 folio 173  
James Hicks  
To  
Matilda O'Neale
- 1849 Deed in Trust Sept. 10, 1849 recorded Oct. 31, 1849 in  
Liber JAS 58 folio 215  
Matilda O'Neale  
To  
Bennett Sewell
- 1853 Deed May 4, 1853 recorded June 15, 1853 in  
Liber JAS 57 folio 413  
John Marbury, Trustee of court selling the estate  
of Alexander Dunlop by decrea of April 17, 1850  
To  
Lewis Carberry  
One half interest in the property
- 1853 Deed June 10, 1853 recordad June 15, 1853 in  
Liber JAS 57 folio 420  
James Hicks et ux Margaret Helen  
Matilda O'Neale  
Lawis Carberry  
To  
Richard Pettit
- 1858 Deed December 1, 1858 recorded December 16, 1858 in  
Liber JAS 166 folio 3  
Bennett Sewell, Trustee  
Lewis Carberry  
Margaret H. Hicks  
James Hicks  
To  
Richard Pettit

- 1867 Deed November 19, 1867 recorded November 19, 1867 in  
Liber ECE 19 folio 331  
Richard Pettit et ux Mary Ann  
To  
William J. L. Nicodemus  
1867 Deed December 6, 1867 recorded December 9, 1867 in  
Liber ECE 24 folio 154  
William J. L. Nicodemus et ux Frances E.  
To  
Richard Pettit  
1874 Deed November 11, 1874 recorded November 12, 1874 in  
Liber 768 folio 239  
Charles H. Pettit, son of the late Mary Ann  
Pettit and the late Richard Pettit  
To  
Richard Fullalove  
1883 Deed November 6, 1883 recorded March 18, 1884 in  
Liber 1073 folio 199  
Richard Fullalove et ux Elizabeth J.  
To  
Joseph Schladt  
1885 Deed April 18, 1885 recorded April 18, 1885 in  
Liber 1122 folio 155  
Richard Fullalove et ux Elizabeth J.  
To  
Joseph Schladt  
1931 Deed December 12, 1930 recorded January 9, 1931 in  
Liber 6518 folio 171  
Commissioners of the District of Columbia  
To  
Charles H. Wiltsie  
(Tax Sale)  
1941 Executor's Deed February 21, 1938 recorded March 5,  
1941 in Liber 7585 folio 595  
Mary Emily Wiltsie Field as executor of the last will  
and testament of Charles H. Wiltsie, deceased  
To  
William G. Martin  
1941 Executor's Deed March 21, 1932 recorded March 5, 1941 in  
Liber 7585 folio 597  
William G. Wadhams, widower also known as W. Grant  
Wadhams as executor of the last will and testament  
of Mary A. Wadhams, deceased.  
To  
William G. Martin
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- 1941 Deed February 25, 1941 recorded March 5, 1941 in  
Liber 7585 folio 599  
Daniel W. O'Donoghue, Jr., Trustee under last will  
and testament of Joseph Schladt, deceased, by  
decree passed by District Court on June 24, 1938.  
To  
William G. Martin
- 1943 Deed June 4, 1943 recorded June 15, 1943 in  
Liber 7586 folio 77  
William Martin and wife Martha M.  
To  
Carle W. Turner
- 1943 Deed June 4, 1943 recorded June 15, 1943 in  
Liber 7865 folio 79  
Carle W. Turner, unmarried  
To  
William G. Martin et ux Martha M.  
Tenants by entirety
- 1953 Deed April 8, 1953 recorded May 12, 1953 in  
Liber 9963 folio 419  
Martha Patricia Simpson (nee Martin) daughter and  
one of the only two heirs and devisees under the  
will of William G. Martin, deceased, who was  
surviving tenant by entirety of Martha M. Martin  
To  
William A. Martin, son and the only other heir
- 1959 Deed October 19, 1959 recorded October 19, 1959 in  
Liber 11325 folio 529  
William A. Martin et al  
To  
Billy Martin's Carriage House, Inc.
- 1965 Deed November 15, 1965 recorded November 15, 1965 in  
Liber 12513 folio 21  
Billy Martin's Carriage House, Inc.  
To  
Christ the King Roman Catholic Church

2. Date of erection: Probably c. 1850. The deed of 1842 cited above includes a clause permitting use of a party wall for construction, should any be undertaken, and a ten-year lease dated October 10, 1851, recorded June 26, 1852 in Liber JAS 42 folio 200 refers to adjacent building on corner as unfinished.
3. Architect: Unknown.
4. Original plans, construction, etc.: None known.
5. Notes on alterations: Many recent alterations are recorded in the District Building ranging from 1936 to 1958 for a vault, plumbing, repair, refrigeration, etc. Their listing follows:

<u>Permit No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
188745	3/9/36	repair
243317	5/7/41	repair
248988	11/5/41	repair
266111	1/6/44	repair
820	1/12/45	plumbing
277473	5/7/45	repair
281243	11/9/45	addition
282357	1/21/46	vault
A-35316	9/3/52	repair
A-45505	2/2/53	plumbing
A-46515	3/11/53	refrigeration
B-36472	8/5/58	plumbing

One of the major alterations is quoted below:  
"9/3/52 A35316 close door at front and install window install 8" cinder block wall at rear passage make one horizontal exit 3'-8" wide refinish interior as/plans install class "B" fire door at foot of new stairs rails at all steps tin roof \$2,000.00 William A. Martin 3940 N. Glebe Road Arlington"  
The major alteration was supervised by Maurice May, architect.

6. Important old views: None.

B. Hiatorical Events Connected with the Structure:

This building was a well-known hotel and restaurant from the 1880's to the present and has been a favorite gathering place for prominent officials. Known as Schladt's Hotel and later as the West Washington Hotel, this was the abode of Joseph Schladt from 1877 until 1936, a period of 59 years. Washington, D.C. directories give the following tenant information:

1877 - Joseph Schladt  
1881 - Joseph Schladt; saloon  
1885-1896 - Joseph Schladt; hotel and restaurant  
1897-1936 - West Washington Hotel; Joseph Schladt  
1937-1939 - not listed  
1940-1943 - vacant.

Prepared by Dr. James Philip Noffsinger  
Architect  
National Park Service  
August 15, 1966

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION:

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: In spite of extensive modern alterations, this building, once an important Georgetown hotel, retains much of its original character.
2. Condition of fabric: Good; recently reconditioned.

B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Old building: 30'-3" (dimension of porch across four bays) x 45'-5". Later additions extend to alley, approximately 100' total depth. Four stories in height.
2. Foundations: Brick to grade.
3. Wall construction: Red brick of common bond with headers every 6 courses, has been painted white on East (street) facade. Side brickwork above eave line is recent.
4. Porches: Shallow wooden porch resting directly on cement sidewalk is eclectic in style current c. 1870 and is clearly old. It appears to have been assembled from elements of another structure, since it projects beyond facade bays, is inserted beneath a more modern overhang, and has two railed-off areas with no access. Spool-and-spiral-turned tapering colonettes with vaguely Byzantine capitals rest on posts of cross-braced railing and support chamfered impost shafts, some with cross-bracing. Large sign partly obscures impost zone.
5. Chimneys: None visible from street.
6. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: Glazed wooden double doors at 1238 are recent. Simple glazed wooden door at 1240 leads to upper floors, has plain wooden casing.
  - b. Windows and shutters: Six-over-six-light double-hung wooden sash windows diminish in height from second to fourth floor. Sills apparently wooden; lintels are sheathed in heavy geometric tin embellishments.
7. Roof:
  - a. Shape, covering: Front portion of roof rises over modern addition; original roof slopes slightly toward rear.

- b. Framing: Unknown.
  - c. Boldly projecting modillioned cornice of ponderous eclectic design is supported visually by five elaborate consoles.
  - d. Dormers: None.
- C. Technical Description of Interiors: Interior has been gutted in alteration; was not recorded.
- D. Site:
- 1. General setting and orientation: Faces east on Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. on a gently sloping (north to south) site between Prospect and N Streets near the center of Georgetown's busy commercial strip.
  - 2. Enclosures: None.
  - 3. Outbuildings: At least three brick ells have been added westward from the original structure; traces of an early porch remain on the north elevation of the major ell.
  - 4. Walks: Fronts upon modern public sidewalk on Wisconsin Avenue.
  - 5. Landscaping: None.

Prepared by Thomas R. Martinson  
Student Assistant Architect  
National Park Service  
August 8, 1966